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California Polytechnic State University

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Baritone Jubilant Sykes In Recital at Cohan Center

With a singing style that is both captivating and elegant, classical baritone Jubilant Sykes will perform a recital at the Christopher Cohan Center on Wednesday, May 22, 2002 at 8 p.m. This will be the final concert of the Cal Poly Arts 2001/2002 series season.

The Chicago Tribune called Jubilant Sykes "electrifying." The Atlanta Journal agreed: "Jubilant is truly startling to hear. (His) voice is extraordinary. He isn't merely an outstanding singer, his voice is art at its highest expression."

The critically acclaimed artist, lauded in the Wall Street Journal as one of "the next major stars," brings a new dimension to the traditional career of the classically trained baritone by drawing on gospel and jazz influences.

The evening's repertoire will feature music by such diverse composers as Aaron Copland, Robert Schumann, George Gershwin, and Villa Lobos.

The California-born Sykes has won the attention and respect of the world's finest conductors, symphonies and opera companies, including Kurt Masur and the New York Philharmonic, the Chicago Symphony, the Metropolitan Opera, the Cleveland Orchestra, the Philadelphia Orchestra and hundreds of other major venues around the world.

Sykes' versatility has fostered many musical collaborations.

"Jubilant," his first recording under his exclusive contract with Sony Classical, brings the singer together with jazz trumpeter and composer Terence Blanchard. His latest recording, "Wait For Me," features classic songs by Bruce Springsteen, Bob Dylan, and The Beach Boys' Brian Wilson.

Sykes was also recently invited to sing "God Bless America" at the last Rose Bowl game.

Accompanying Mr. Sykes for the Cal Poly Arts recital will be conductor, pianist, and composer Charles Floyd. As a conductor, Mr. Floyd has been heard in more than 500 concerts with such orchestras as The Atlanta Symphony, The Denver Symphony Orchestra, and The Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra. Mr. Floyd has been an annual guest conductor of the Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra since 1994 and in 1995, he made a critically acclaimed debut as pianist there, performing George Gershwin's "Rhapsody In Blue" with Keith Lockhart conducting at Boston's Symphony Hall.

Music Department faculty member Jacalyn Kreitzer will present a pre-concert lecture at 7 p.m. in the Founders Lounge of the Performing Arts Center.

Tickets for the evening performance range from \$22 - \$34, with student discounts available. The recital is co-sponsored by KCBX Public Radio.

On Thursday, May 23, at 1 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center Pavilion, Mr. Sykes will conduct a Master Class with various Cal Poly Music Department vocalists. The afternoon event will be open to the public. Master Class tickets are \$15 public/\$5 student and all proceeds will benefit the Music Department Scholarship Fund.

Tickets for the May 22 concert and the May 23 Master Class may be purchased at Performing Arts Ticket Office, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays. To order by phone, call 805/SLO-ARTS (756-2787); to order by fax: (805) 756-6088.

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